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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00721 121306Z

43
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /060 W
---------- 124094
R 121251Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2235

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0721

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KU
SUBJECT: GHUNAYM RE-ELECTED KUWAIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

REF: KUWAIT A-16, FEB 6, 1974

1. AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE NEW KUWAIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 11 FEBRUARY, KHALID SALIH AL-GHUNAYM WAS RE-ELECTED SPEAKER. GHUNAYM RECEIVED 36 OF 63 POSSIBLE NOTES (50 MEMBERS PLUS THE NON-SABAH MEMBERS OF THE CABINET), WHILE THE OTHER CANDIDATE, JASIM HAMAD AL-SAQR, RECEIVED 21 VOTES. THERE WERE SIX ABSTENTIONS. AHMAD SA'DUN, A NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY WHO IS SUPPORTED BY THE SAME GROUP AS AL-SAQR (THE LARGE MERCHANTS), DEFEATED INCUMBENT YUSIF AL-MIKHLID FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER. KHALID MAS'UD WAS ELECTED SECRETARY AND MUHAMMED RUSHAYD AS COMPTROLLER. THE CABINET ALSO WAS APPROVED AT THIS SESSION.

2. COMMENT: GHUNAYM'S ELECTION WAS A VICTORY FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND IS AN INDICATION OF THE FUTURE VOTING LINEUP (SEE REFAIR). SAQR RECEIVED VOTES FROM THE MERCHANTS, INDEPENDENTS, LEFTISTS AND TWO MINISTERS (ABD-AL-WAHHAB AL-NAFISI AND SULAYMAN ZAYD).
STOLTZFUS

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